

AGENDA ITEM #10

July 11, 2003

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Update on State Budget, Funding for the Delta Protection Commission,
and Next Steps
(For Public Hearing, Commission Discussion and Possible Action)

Background:

At the May meeting, staff reported that the Assembly Budget Subcommittee had voted to limit the Commission's FY 03-04 budget to \$167,000 and to add a one year sunset date in the budget act.

The Assembly version of the budget bill, with the above restrictions, was forwarded to the Joint Budget Committee along with the Senate's approved budget of \$307,000 with no sunset date.

There was support for continuation of the Commission during the consideration of the Joint Budget Bill that resulted in new, compromise language.

Current Text of the Budget Bill:

The budget bill now being considered by the Legislature includes the following text regarding the Commission's proposed budget:

For support of Delta Protection Commission, payable from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund...\$167,000

For Support of the Delta Protection Commission, payable from the California Environmental License Plate Fund...\$140,000

Provisions: 1. The funds appropriated in this item shall be available for expenditure after receipt by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee of the report required under Item 3840-001-0140 of the Supplemental Report of the Budget Act of 2003.

Supplemental Report Language

The Resources Agency shall report to the JLBC, on or before December 30, 2003, on the status of the Delta Protection Commission and its projected future workload.

The report shall include, but not be limited to:

- *The powers and duties of the Delta Protection Commission and its accomplishments to date.*
- *The impact on the agricultural resources, environmental, and recreational opportunities of the Delta in the absence of the Delta Protection Commission.*
- *An analysis of various ideas regarding the future organization of the Delta Protection Commission, including but not limited to mission, membership, and funding, focused on the goal of increasing cooperation and consensus, and to better reflect the State's working relationship with local governments, landowners and other public and private entities in the Delta given the changes that have taken place since the creation of the Commission;*
 1. *Plans for continued efforts to protect agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities;*
 2. *Ways to facilitate coordination with other agencies such as the California Bay-Delta Authority;*

The Legislative Analyst's Office shall provide the Legislature with an analysis of this report and make recommendations as appropriate, on or before February 15, 2004.

Recent Activities:

On Monday, July 7, the Chairman and Executive Director met with Secretary for Resources Mary Nichols. She accepted an offer of assistance from the Commission, and staff is currently preparing a "highlights and timeline" memo of Commission actions and activities. She noted the need to coordinate with interested parties about the role of the Commission in the Delta in the past and the future.

Next Steps:

The Commission should discuss the current status of the Commission and its budget, discuss the need for a small special committee (no more than two Commissioners) to provide oversight of staff work, and discuss options for obtaining community input to assist the Secretary in her analysis.

Positions of Support:

The Commission has received copies of letters of support for the Commission and its budget from:

- Sacramento County
- Lew Pengilly, Citizen, Rio Vista
- City of Lathrop
- San Joaquin County Agricultural Advisory Board
- City of West Sacramento

An editorial about the Commission was published in the Stockton Record on May 30, 2003.

Attachments